REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 12-14, and 16-19 are pending and new claim 23 is submitted herewith. Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue subject matter thereof in a continuing application. Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. These claims have been canceled.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being upatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,007,768 to Matsushima ("Matsushima") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,237,893 to Ryder et al. ("Ryder").

Matsushima discloses a tightening device. As seen in Figures 1 and 3 of Matsushima, an end 8 of a spring 6 projects inwardly toward a central axis of the tightening device. Figures 4 and 7 of Matsushima show a spring 19 having an inwardly projecting end 20. Referring to Fig. 7 of Ryder, an end of a curved elongated finger 69 projects inwardly toward a central axis of a tool 68. In contrast, claim 1, as amended herein, recites:

> [a] device for securing a screw comprising:
> a longitudinal shank having a central axis and rear and front ends;
> a spindle, located at the front end of the longitudinal shank and concentric to the central axis, having front and rear ends, a substantially polygonal-shaped cross-section with a plurality of rounded edges and a plurality of concave side surfaces, a groove substantially parallel to the central axis, and a borehole coextensive with the groove; and
> a spring wire having top and bottom ends and a middle portion disposed between the top and bottom ends, with the bottom end inserted into the borehole and the top end inserted into the groove, wherein, the spring wire, proceeding from the middle portion thereof toward the top end thereof, projects transversely away from the central axis when unstressed, and, when the spindle is received into a screwhead aperture of the screw, the top end of the spring wire secures the screw in position.

It is respectfully submitted that no combination of the cited references discloses or suggests a spring wire, which, proceeding from a middle portion thereof toward a top end thereof, projects transversely away from the central axis when unstressed. In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references discloses or suggests the invention set forth in claim 1. Moreover, Matsushima teaches away from the present invention by disclosing that the front end of the spring is flush within the tip end of the

engagement part 2. (Matsushima, 3:26-30 and 4:44-51).

In view of the foregoing it is submitted that the Office Action does not set forth a prima-facie case of obviousness with respect to amended claim 1. Insofar as the foregoing comments with respect to claim 1 are equally applicable to their dependent claims, the rejections of the dependent claims are also believed to have been overcome. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 8, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been overcome. Applicants respectfully submit that the art cited in this case neither discloses nor suggests the present invention. Thus, the pending claims and newly presented claim are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

No fee is believed due for this submission. Should any fees be required, however, please charge such fees to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

If the Examiner wishes to discuss this case, then Applicants respectfully request a personal or telephonic interview to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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